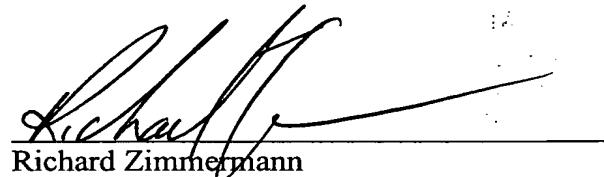


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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:  
amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper;  
amendments to the abstract begin on page 10 of this paper;  
complete listing of claims begins on page 11 of this paper; and  
remarks begin on page 17 of this paper.